



# NEWSLETTER

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## Latest News from the Director



Dear Colleagues:

Educators and policymakers in the mid-Atlantic region—and across the country—face a whole lot of challenges every day, so I'm happy that the REL's latest work can offer a few solutions. Below you can read about a REL infographic that identifies skills that students need to be career-ready; a webinar that highlights several promising approaches

being undertaken across the region to promote a pipeline of diverse and effective teachers; a workshop on best practices in the design of school accountability report cards; a video on the REL's work with regional stakeholders to support school improvement; and another webinar that describes proven practices for reducing chronic absenteeism. When you check out the links, I hope you'll find something that informs your own work in promoting school performance and improving outcomes for students.

**Brian Gill, Ph.D.**

Director, REL Mid-Atlantic

Senior Fellow, Mathematica Policy Research

## Highlights

### Ready, Steady, Grow: Preparing Students for Changing Careers

[Take a look at our latest infographic](#) on today's career landscape, which differs dramatically from that of the past. Constant changes in job requirements mean that students must be prepared to change too. These shifts add a new dimension to the definition of an adequately prepared worker: a person who is ready for change throughout his or her entire work life.

### Do You Know What You've Been Missing?

Looking for a REL Mid-Atlantic infographic, fact sheet, webinar, or other technical support resource? All this and more is now available [in one place on our website](#). Search by keyword or topic to quickly find what you are looking for.

## Hot Topics

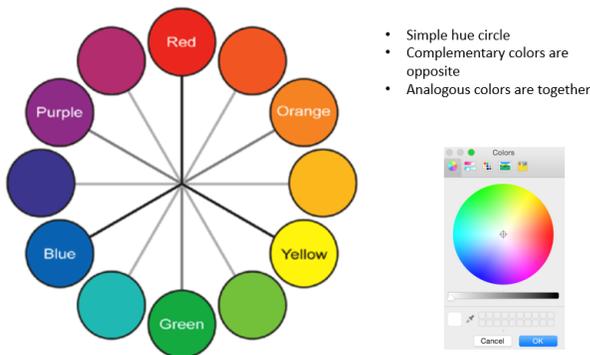


### Plugging the Leaky Teacher Pipeline

Recruiting and retaining effective teachers is a critical issue, especially in subjects such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and special education. [On the RELevant blog, Steven Malick](#) reviews the extent of the problem and how REL Mid-Atlantic is helping to address it.

Also, check out our [recent webinar](#) to find out how innovative district–university partnerships can help expand and diversify the teacher pipeline. Presenters discussed approaches to address teacher shortages through collaborative initiatives that seek to shore up the pipeline using both pre-service and in-service strategies. They also reviewed the research behind teacher shortages and diversity.

### Tips for color: use the hue circle



### School Performance Report Cards: Why They Matter

School report cards (as distinguished from student report cards) can promote accountability by making a school's performance transparent, and can help parents understand how their children's schools are doing. They are especially valuable in communities that permit families to choose among schools. But the value of a school report card depends on whether it provides the right content in a design that

promotes understanding. [A RELevant blog post by Jacob Hartog and Jesse Chandler](#) reviews how appropriate design can make or break the success of a school report card in communicating to parents and citizens. You can also watch videos and slides from a workshop with stakeholders [here](#).

## What's New, What's Next

### FEATURED VIDEO



The REL Mid-Atlantic: School Support and Improvement Alliance

### New Video: Find Out More About Support and Improvement of Chronically Low-Performing Schools

[Learn about how the school support and improvement alliance works](#) with districts to improve academic performance in chronically low-performing schools.

### Chronic Absenteeism Puts Students at Risk

Missing just 10 percent of school days puts students at risk of a host of academic and social problems. REL Mid-Atlantic

convened an expert panel to discuss this issue, which affects schools across the nation. [Watch the recording](#) to find out some innovative, low-cost, research-based solutions that have successfully reduced chronic absenteeism.

## Our Twitter Feed: Innovative and Informative



### Connect with Us on Social Media

Are you following us on Twitter? [@RELMidAtlantic](https://twitter.com/RELMidAtlantic) is where you can plug into not only our work, but also news from our 9 REL partners across the country and the latest research from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. We built our Twitter feed to be helpful, informative, and fun to scroll through.

In partnership with our alliances throughout the REL Mid-Atlantic states, we use it every day to bring you the news and information most relevant to educators in our region. That includes videos, blogs, event coverage, and a wide range of expert (and user-friendly) advice. Thanks for following us [@RELMidAtlantic!](https://twitter.com/RELMidAtlantic)



Interested in **joining us** or **learning more**? **Contact us.**

Please reach out anytime to [RELMidatlantic@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:RELMidatlantic@mathematica-mpr.com) to share your ideas about important issues the REL Mid-Atlantic could address; request free training, coaching, or technical support; or ask questions about how we can help you in your work.

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